COTTO

TORCHWOOD: ABSENT FRIENDS by James Goss

His voice was already going then, parkinson's, people found it hard to talk to him. But ohhh. hard to talk to him. I found it hard to bothering with us, he was chatting away to ghosts, the tapes away, at first I was When your friend came and took the tapes away, at first I was glad. But then it broke him. They ordered me not to let him back in the building, Sealed to tell him.

the building. Sealed his studio. I had to tell him. He sat at home, listening to his radio but he couldn't hear the ghosts any

the ghosts any more. So he stopped talking.

Your Dad - are you going to bring him in?

No. He - doesn't talk at all now.

IANTO:

Don't go and see him. He's locked in. Those cardboard cutouts you can buy of Luke Skywalker. It's like visiting one of those. (SMILE) those. (SMILES) Kettle!

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SCENE 12. INT. STUDIO 4

FX: THE DOCTOR IS UNSPOOLING TAPE

DOCTOR:

Tape is amazing. Things linger on it. The ghosts of old words. Even the mould that grows on them is fascinating.

JACK:

I've missed you.

FX: THE DOCTOR FITS THE TAPE

DOCTOR:

Let's put you back in place after all these years. Tape was the first way to lie with sound. You can't edit a wax cylinder. You can't fiddle with shellac. But tape - you just need a keen eye and a razor blade.

FX: THE DOCTOR THREADS IT AROUND THE HEADS

JACK:

Things have been hard without you.

DOCTOR: MA STOLE STATE STATE STATE COME STATE ST

One cut and you can separate two truths and make a new one. Get it right, there's not even a flutter.

JACK:

I know you can't always turn up.

DOCTOR:

I knew a woman who could edit with a razor blade clenched in her teeth. She'd bite down (SNAPS TEETH) and just like that she could take out a false note, or an awkward pause. (SNAPS TEETH AGAIN)

JACK:

Not everything's a Dalek invasion. But still. Would have been nice to see you.

DOCTOR:

Not played for 20 years, but its secrets are intact.

JACK: 85% SR . CD of betsew I paid tell west by het bettmore

You turn up for a psychic cloud. But there are times ... I don't know how I got through them without you.

AN AWKWARD PAUSE

DOCTOR:

Yeah. Let's see what's on here.

FX: HE PRESSES PLAY. KERSHUNK AS TAPE HEADS SPIN INTO PLACE.